



FASHION INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

MAY/JUNE 1983

WEEKEND WEAR: THE ACTIVE INFLUENCE

REVIEWED:

WEEKEND WEAR

FALL IN NEW YORK

TEXITALIA

THE PARIS PRET

SHOPPING TORONTO

Call it weekend wear, call it active sportswear--casual sportswear with an active influence is playing a new role in the fashion market. As working women invest the lion's share of their fashion dollars in business clothes, weekend and active clothes have moved beyond jogging to replace sportswear. Most stores feature weekend wear as a separate department or area. The rugged wear look will be a major part of fall's business.

Fabrics include the perennial sweats plus brushed cotton, twill, corduroy, brushed flannel, blanket fleece, and cire. Fabric mixtures and layering are used for a fashion statement. Stripes, plaids, and checks look fresh, but solids continue.

Styles: the elastic pull-on waist pant is still the key silhouette, but don't overlook cargo pants and Bermuda shorts. Oversize tops with menswear looks, vests, jackets, skirts, and dresses are the "bridge" pieces which take these clothes from active to casual; long-sleeve turtlenecks function as fillers. Jumpsuits (mostly with elasticized waists), and two-piece jogging suits are classic bestsellers.

Colors: the important shades are black with brights, blue, red, yellow, white, and grey.

NORMA KAMALI features the jumpsuit in black with bright colors, and no snaps or buttons for a clean silhouette. The pant is slimmed down with an elastic waistband and ribbed cuffs. Fleece hooded bomber jacket with drawstring waist, and a reversible double bomber jacket are outstanding. Buffalo check group is teamed with slicker jackets; tights and T-shirt shown with washing instruction print.

LESLIE FAY'S HEAD SPORT DIVISION offers a capsule collection called "Head for the Mountains". The great outdoor looks include cargo pants, fishing vest and raggy sweaters.

CALVIN KLEIN emphasizes related separates in twill and knit rugby stripes, and wide wale corduroy short skirts and pants. New denim items: puff sleeve jacket, corduroy trimmed shirtdress.

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RALPH LAUREN--functional items move from active to casual in solids and rugby stripes. Outerwear jackets in dusty colors, corduroy shorts and pants, reversible windbreaker and down pullover sweater are top pieces. Also, oversized fleece pull-on tops and cardigans.

MERONA SPORT by Jeffrey Banks shows bright and heather colors and strong coordinated groups in twill and cotton knit. Pull-on elastic waist pant a top seller. Oversized sweaters and cardigans in men's sizes for women. Knit turtlenecks with cord bottoms and outerwear jackets important.

ADRIENNE VITTADINI--A dress and straight leg pant are included in active groups to take them into the sportswear separates category. All-cotton thermal pique group. Cotton trapunto quilted jacket stitched in black coordinates with classic running pant and three tops. Brushed flannel and ultra-marine groups include two pants and a variety of tops. A red/navy/ecru active group includes a dress for a weekend wardrobe. Oversized tops. Cotton jersey quilted jackets with nylon fill and cowl neck, coolie, and hooded drawstring jackets are outstanding, along with fleece/cotton knit combo sweaters.

TEXTITALIA: ITALIAN FABRICS EXHIBIT

Linen predominated at the Textitalia showing of Italian fashion fabrics for Spring/Summer 1984 in New York from May 10-12. Pure linen and linen blends were shown in a variety of new treatments: satin stripes and cables, chambray-like weaves, basket and damask weaves, double woven and crinkled matelasses, quilted effects, mesh, and twill. Linen knits were strong in open, airy, bulky, and stringy textures.

A bright new color palette has replaced last year's subdued shades. The primary colors to watch are: sunny yellow, gold, brilliant orange, fuchsia, violet, purple.

Large prints were directional. Prints on dotted and striped grounds were important along with modern primitives, forties' florals, and air-brushed realist prints. Oversize designs included: single symmetrical pattern across entire fabric width, giant border prints, splashy botanical prints, and outsize florals.

The Fall line-up at the shows in New York during the last two weeks in April showed once again that for a clean, elegant look nothing beats sportswear. The trend was for simple smashing sportswear classics. Hemlines moved from short, curvy above-the-knee skirts to mid-calf or longer, but the strong silhouette was a slender, longer length. While tops varied from the slimmest blazer to fuller blousons, the bottoms were always fitted through the hips. Along this more natural line, the freshest shoulders were set-in or rounded. Woolens reigned, as did the menswear look in big plaids and checks (often mixed), and knits.

Enough rhinestones and bugle beads were shown for evening to light up the city of New York, but this evening wear took on sportswear shapes with blazers, pants, sweaters, and skirts in luxurious fabrics and trims. The baubles and beads looked best when used to pick up details, or all-over for all-out glamour. The hottest look mixed tweeds with colored rhinestones on a trench and overcoat--shown with gunmetal satin. Velvet made a strong comeback in demure dresses, suits, and evening coats.

Fabrics: merino, vicuna, llama, cashmere, tweeds--Donegal and Harris, mohair, silk, camel, flannel, covert twill. For evening: velvet, satin, lurex, lame, chiffon.

The Styles: Pants were everywhere, most often the classic pleated pant. If the coat-dress was omnipresent (best in soft, muted plaids), it faced sharp competition from the short jacketed suit. Whether cropped and swingy, topped with a capelet, or boxy, the short jacket proved a welcome suit look. Classics were not forgotten with the three-button or double-breasted blazer--also the spencer and fencing jacket. The skirt was slim, fitted, and knee-length or below. Other strong styles included the circle--with controlled fullness--and the pleated skirt in box, kick, and all-over pleats. Belts were a major feature in this fitted look: narrow or wide at the waist on cardigans, short jackets, coat-dresses--and the hip-wrap.

FALL/WINTER 84/85 COLOR FORECAST
Fall/Winter colors will be soft, elegant, and subdued. Look for brown-influenced tones, grey and smokey shades. Colors: soft apricot, bois de rose, lichen green, petroleum blue; grey, red, orange & olive brown.

OVERVIEW: Clothes were soigne and sophisticated as broad, often immense shoulders tapered past slim hips to mid-calf or longer lengths. The sole exception to this more formal look remained the Japanese. Designs by Rei Kawakubo, Yohji Yamamoto, and Junko Koshino were greeted with derision or acclaim as the international fashion press divided itself over whether this look is the "next dimension", or disturbingly anti-fashion. With body enveloping styles influenced by everything from Japanese field workers to "Quest for Fire" in rough fabrics of indigo, black, and somber purples, the impact of the Japanese as a group was greater than that of any one designer.

The Fabrics: Donegal, Harris, and salt and pepper tweeds, chevrons, covert, flannel, twills, gabardines, homespuns, thick and thin wools, challis, jacquard knits, wool and silk jersey, angora, mohair, cashmere, cotton and sweat-shirt knits, poplin, velour, ticking and corduroy. Suede, printed, crinkled, and distressed leather. Lace, chiffon, tulle, net, satin jacquard damask, moire, velvet, polished satin, silk satin crepe, crepe de chine.

Colors: anthracite to pale grey, black, grape, wine, red, forest olive, loden green, browns--russet to chestnut, dark navy, indigo, gitane and Sevres blue, somber purple, violet, mustard, curry, Winter white, ecru, cream, and beige.

Herve Leger and Marianne Oudin for Chanel: updating the Chanel look a more contemporary brown and white replaced the traditional blue and white. Shoulders were more defined, jackets shorter and even fitted. The familiar cardigan was bound in furry wool fringe, or plaid for day and sequined at night; lots of black spangle jerseys. Also launched were the first leather Chanels in fine kid with gold buttons.

Karl Lagerfeld for Chloe...lots of long, skinny sweaters and knitted dresses, great coats with low notched collars, and glamorous evening dresses lavishly touched with glitter--sometimes in the form of plumbers' tools and hardware.

Marc Bohan for Dior...black and red rain suits, big supple coats in patterned wool, and printed wool dresses with big armholes. Double-breasted blazers had contrast lapels

for a newer look. After-five huge caftan dresses in damask silk alternate with lame shirts worn with matching pants. Chiffon shirts and satin pants with lurex printed sarongs tied to one side. The most contemporary look, a simple black sequin sweater over a long checked sequin skirt.

Givenchy...Knit suits, jacquard sweaters and bloused tweedy cardigans over knee length skirts or corduroy trousers. Long smocks over tunics and pants substitute for winter coats. Suits are often collared and cuffed in black velvet. Coat dresses are slim and straight with tailored collars and leather belts. Late-day: swansdown coats over panne velvet, glittering tunics with short, narrow skirts, and femme fatale dresses.

Sonia Rykiel...sweaters this season have little ruffles; the line stays as close to the skin as ever, with a hint of padding for straight shoulders. Skirts feature deep back slits. Her famous maribou capes and black with rhinestones for late-day.

Yves Saint Laurent...subtle changes here. Menswear jackets have rounded rather than squared-off bottoms. Pants for day outnumber skirts, which range from above the knee slims curving gently over the hip to three-tier full dirndls. Menswear great-coats, and a slash coat with deep side and front panels slit to the waist were shown; also his cossack shapes. YSL's favorite silhouette is still the hip-length tunic or jacket worn with a narrow skirt. For evening, velvet short dresses, dinner suits, sweaters touched with glitter, and the new tuxedo pant with sequins down sides.

Emanuel Ungaro...Mondrian type suede tunics with grey bands separating the color block. Printed wool skirts and dresses in muted abstract patterns. Jewel color sweaters and striped coats with broad strokes of color in cocoon shapes. Tight, sexy evening dresses.

Valentino...voluminous smock coats, great coats in beige with black piping, or muted large plaids were worn over close to the body dresses. Late-day...black velvet princess dresses with ruffled petticoats in hot pink, yellow and red. Sweater jackets and pullovers in lame or sequins. Long grey wool skirt striped in silver sequins paired with a sequin front pullover.

TORONTO: CANADA'S NEW SHOPPING MECCA

Toronto has replaced Montreal as the shopping center of Canada. From Bloor Street West (Toronto's Madison Avenue) to Hazelton Lanes (Yorkville Village), Eaton's, and the world famous glass-enclosed Eaton Centre—with its 301 shops, cinemas, and 62 eating spots—one finds a dazzling array of merchandise to suit every pocketbook and taste. Toronto is a large city and the shopping areas are not as centrally located as in Montreal. Be sure to ask for Canadian tax rebate forms if you have purchased a large amount of higher priced merchandise.

EATON'S: (Yonge & Dundas, 591-3111) Canada's largest privately owned department store. Children's wear and juniors third floor, young contemporary designer and private label second floor. Third floor is a mixture of imported and domestic dresses, separates and active sportswear...Ribkoff, Pantel, JS Jr. Scene, Peppertree, Vanessa. Second floor domestic and imports from the US, Europe and the Far East...Algo, Anne Marie Baretta, Belle France, Bis, Chacok, Castelbajac, Perry Ellis, Kenzo, Emmanuelle Khanh, Albert Nipon, Alfred Sung, Tan Jay.

EATON CENTRE--walk through the third floor of Eaton's to begin at the top level and work your way down.

Level 3

Fairweather: moderately priced Jr. dresses, sportswear and Daniel Hechter boutique. Bowring: handknit sweaters from Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, fabrics, yarns, and hand-crafted items. Harry Rosen: menswear of good quality and design. The Model's Center: 1 and 2-piece sweat-shirt dresses, T-shirts, and make-up for the avant-garde. Bart's: elegant and expensive sportswear and dresses in leather and suede. Valley: sportswear and separates, mostly Canadian made. B.J. Larkin: moderately priced

apparel for the young career woman. Francois Villon: shoes. Lipton's: contemporary career woman's apparel, US, Canadian, and imported...Don Sayres, Alfred Sung, Nipon, Rouie, Christyne Forti, Jack Mulqueen, Marni knits.

Level 2

Marks & Spencer: (a bit of old England although most of the merchandise is Canadian.) Menswear, women's wear and children's wear, home furnishings, and foods on the first level. P.S. 3: popular priced dresses and separates domestic and imported. El Jag: separates and sportswear for juniors...Sweet Baby Jane, Suzy Shier. Dalmays: good junior dresses, separates, and active sportswear...Pantel, Club Prive, Nu Mode, Nina Wills for Xanadu, Esprit, and Bistro--all Canadian made.

Level 1

Nancy G: young junior merchandise, French Fact, Michael Philips. Reitman's: junior dresses and very moderately priced sportswear. La Foret: elegant boutique with better dresses and separates, Alfred Chang, Nipon, Jack Mulqueen.

SIMPSON'S (176 Yonge Street, 861-9111) Third floor: dresses, separates, sportswear (imported and domestic)--Simon Chang, Gray Man, Norma Kamali, Koret, Ralph Lauren, Tan Jay. "The Room"--imports and private label ...Bill Blass, Beenebag, Cacharel, Paul Costelloe, Marisa Christina, Liz Claiborne, Wendy Dagworthy, Dior Boutique, Jousse, Rouie, Sonia Rykiel, Luciano Soprani, Sportmax.

Second floor...juniors: Dacquiri, one and two-piece dresses and separates...Esprit, Williwear, Sweet Baby Jane, Santa Cruz, Phillips, Depeche.

(More on Toronto in next issue)

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